

Message Text

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R 280222Z JUN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

INFO ALL EUROPEAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:ELAB

SUBJECT:GUIDANCE FOR ILWU TEAM VISITS

REFS: POVENMIRE/GOOTT LETTER, JUNE 16

COLLINS/DAY LETTER, JUNE 20

ATTENTION LABOR OFFICERS

1. DEPT APPRECIATES HAVING BEEN INFORMED BY ACTION ADDRESSEES OF LETTERS RECEIVED FROM HARRY BRIDGES, PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL LONGSHOREMEN'S AND WAREHOUSEMEN'S UNION (ILWU) RE PROSPECTIVE VISITS BY 3-MAN ILWU "RANK AND FILE" TEAMS TO STUDY WORKING CONDITIONS AND THE ROLE OF THE "TRADE UNION MOVEMENT IN THE LARGER SOCIAL-POLITICAL CONTEXT".

2. THE DEPT AGREES THAT EMBASSY SHOULD BE PREPARED TO
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ASSIST THE VISITING TEAMS WITH BRIEFINGS AND SUITABLE PRO-

GRAM ARRANGEMENTS. POVENMIRE AND COLLINS REPLIES BEING FORWARDED TO BRIDGES.

3. POSTS SHOULD, HOWEVER, BE GUIDED BY FOLLOWING CONSIDERATIONS IN PROVIDING ASSISTANCE:

4. ILWU IS ONE OF UNIONS EXPELLED FROM FORMER CIO ON GROUNDS OF COMMUNIST DOMINATION AND CONTROL. IT HAS CONTINUED UNDER SAME LEADERSHIP AS AN INDEPENDENT UNION NOT RPT NOT AFFILIATED TO THE AFL-CIO. ITS VIEWS ON SIGNIFICANT FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES USUALLY CONFLICT WITH THOSE OF THE MAINSTREAM OF THE U.S. TRADE UNION MOVEMENT REPRESENTED BY THE AFL-CIO.

5. THE DEPT DOES NOT, OF COURSE, KNOW THE ORIENTATION OF THE INDIVIDUAL "RANK AND FILE" MEMBERS OF THE VISITING TEAMS BUT MUST ASSUME THAT THEY WILL REFLECT THE POLICY VIEWS OF THEIR ORGANIZATION.

6. IN LIGHT OF THE ABOVE, THE EMBASSY SHOULD, IN HELPING TO ARRANGE CONTACTS FOR THE TEAM WITH NON-COMMUNIST TRADE UNION ORGANIZATIONS AND OFFICIALS, ASSURE THAT THE LOCAL OFFICIALS ARE AWARE OF THE IDENTITY OF THE ILWU AND PARTICULARLY THAT IT IS NOT AN AFFILIATE OF THE AFL-CIO AND NOT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE VIEWS OF THAT ORGANIZATION. THE EMBASSY SHOULD, MOREOVER, SEEK TO AVOID GIVING THE IMPRESSION TO EITHER LOCAL GOVERNMENT OR TRADE UNION OFFICIALS THAT THE TEAM VISIT HAS ANY U.S. GOVERNMENT SPONSORSHIP.

7. IF THE TEAM MEMBERS HAVE THE NAMES OF COMMUNIST TRADE UNION OFFICIALS WHOM THEY WISH TO SEE OR OTHERWISE EXPRESS INTEREST IN HAVING THE EMBASSY'S HELP IN MEETING COMMUNIST TRADE UNION OFFICIALS, THE EMBASSY SHOULD NOT RPT NOT SERVE AS AN INTERMEDIARY TO ARRANGE SUCH CONTACTS. THE MOST THAT EMBASSY SHOULD DO WITH RESPECT TO ANY SUCH REQUEST IS TO IDENTIFY SUCH ORGANIZATIONS OR OFFICIALS, BUT LEAVE THESE CONTACTS ENTIRELY TO THE VISITORS THEMSELVES SHOULD THEY WISH TO PURSUE THEM ON THEIR OWN INITIATIVE.

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8. DEPT WOULD WELCOME REPORT ON TEAM VISIT AS SOON AS CONVENIENT.

9. THIS MESSAGE REPEATED INFO POSTS ON POSSIBILITY THEY MAY BE INCLUDED ON ILWU TEAMS' ITINERARY. INGERSOLL

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